

JAMES M. INHOFE  
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603  
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE  
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530  
TULSA, OK 74104  
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE  
3817 NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 780  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112  
(405) 208-8841

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

INTELLIGENCE  
EX OFFICIO

October 16, 2019

Jorge Ayala  
Regional Director  
Economic Development Administration  
903 San Jacinto Blvd, Suite 206  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Ayala:

I write to express my support for the application by the Muskogee City-County Port Authority to receive funding for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Supplemental Funding Grant made available by the US Department of Commerce to communities impacted by a Presidentially-declared major disaster that occurred in 2019. These funds would be used to mitigate impacts of future flooding, facilitating additional economic development and job growth at the Port of Muskogee.

The Port Authority would use the grant funding to raise the elevation of two existing, undeveloped industrial sites to mitigate impacts of future flooding and the construction of a levee around the Port of Muskogee. These improvements will facilitate private sector investment of \$123 million and the creation of 281 new, permanent, high quality jobs that would directly benefit the City of Muskogee, Muskogee County, the Port of Muskogee and the Port's public terminal operator, Oakley's Terminal.

Furthermore, the grant funding would be used to protect existing investment and jobs at the Port of Muskogee including: more than \$100 million invested and 118 jobs located at Vallourec Star; the U.S.S. Batfish Submarine and War Memorial Park; the City of Muskogee Water Treatment Plant which serves 68,000 residents in Muskogee, as well as, four other communities and five rural water districts; and the \$2.1 million investment of Oklahoma Gas & Electric in an electrical substation that serves Vallourec Star and the City of Muskogee Water Treatment Plant.

The Port of Muskogee is a critical part of a unique regional economic asset, providing multi-modal freight access to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, a National Marine Highway for waterborne commerce. To date, industries at the Port have invested more than \$2 billion in existing facilities, creating more than 2,500 jobs. Mitigating impacts of future flooding would not only protect existing public and private sector investments at the Port of Muskogee, but also add to its viability, competitiveness, and sustainability—which is why this application enjoys the support of the broad array of public and private stakeholders of the Port.

Given the regional economic impacts of this important project, and the strong support this project enjoys with local and regional stakeholders, I urge you to strongly consider this grant application. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate

<http://inhofe.senate.gov>